

TAB 20

2.4.3 Litigation Related to Zonolite Attic Insulation

ZAI claims are part of the Asbestos PD Claims. In 2000 and 2001, prior to the Petition Date, nine lawsuits (one of which has since been dismissed) styled as class actions were filed in various jurisdictions on behalf of owners of homes containing ZAI, seeking damages and other relief, including removal of the attic insulation, because of its alleged asbestos content. Some of the lawsuits were filed on behalf of residents of particular states while others purport to be nationwide in scope. As of the Petition Date, many of the lawsuits had not proceeded beyond the initial pleadings. Four of the federal class actions were consolidated for pretrial purposes in a multi-district litigation proceeding; a motion for class certification was pending in this proceeding as of the Petition Date. A statewide class was certified in a Washington state case. None of the cases reached a decision on the merits, although the Washington state court denied a motion seeking a preliminary injunction that would have required the Debtors to warn all state residents of the alleged hazards of ZAI. In October 2004, two additional class action lawsuits were filed in Canada. The plaintiffs allege that ZAI is in millions of homes and that removal would cost several thousand dollars per home.

In April 2002, the Debtors filed ten proofs of Claim on behalf of individual Claimants for Claims relating to ZAI and subsequently filed objections thereto to establish a forum for determining whether ZAI creates an unreasonable risk of harm (the "ZAI Science Trial"). The ZAI Claims and objections, and subsequent responses and summary judgment motions, form the basis for the ZAI Science Trial. The ZAI Science Trial issues are fully briefed and ready to proceed. The Bankruptcy Court held a hearing on the ZAI Science Trial motions on October 18, 2004 and has taken the motions under advisement. The Court has indicated it may need to have further proceedings with respect to the matters addressed in the motions.